

### QUARTERLY REPORT YIELDS SIZE OF FIRM DATA

The employer's quarterly Unemployment Insurance (UI) report that is filed with Idaho Commerce & Labor is a wealth of information. Besides listing wages for each employee, the report includes employment (number of employees) for each month during the quarter, by North America Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code, UI account number, and location. For those employers that have more than one worksite or establishment or are involved in several industries, a supplemental report is filed to identify the number of employees and wages paid in each location and industry. Size of firm information can be calculated from the data provided in these worksite reports. Because the size of firm information shows the distribution of workers by establishment per size class, it provides a picture of the composition of Idaho's businesses.

The size of firm data has been compiled into an annual report that provides a count of establishments, average monthly employment, total annual wages, average annual wages, percent of employment, and percent of wages by employment size class. This data for the state and six geographic regions can be found in the FYI Tables 1-7 on pages 22-25. Some size classes have been combined in order to meet Idaho's disclosure law, which states that if there are two or fewer firms in a category, the data cannot be published.

The statewide and regional tables compare size of firm data for 2001, 2002, and 2003. Three years of data were included to illustrate the lack of significant growth during the economic slowdown. The FYI tables on pages 22-25 show the change in distribution of employment and wages among the size classes as well as the percent of employment and wages by size class by region for each of the three years.

Statewide, 51.0 percent of the establishments employ **1 to 4** workers, but provide only 7.7 percent of the jobs and 2.3 percent of the total wages. Establishments with **20 to 49** employees had the largest percent of jobs—19.3 percent—and total wages—17.8 percent. In 2003, there were 41,202 establishments in Idaho up 1,337, or 3.4 percent, from 2002 and up 1,800, or 4.6 percent from 2001. The number of establishments in each size class increased in 2003 except for two—the **100 to 249** employees class and the **500 to 1,000** employee class. Size class **100 to 249** lost 5 establishments in 2003 for a total of 529. Size class **500 to 1,000** workers lost 10 establishments to 47. There were 732 establishments that employed **more than 100** workers; 23 employed **more than 1,000**.

All regions reported that nearly 70 percent of the establishments had employment between **1 and 9** workers. However, these same size classes provide less than 22 percent of the jobs and wages. Employers with **20 to 49** workers had the largest percentage of jobs and wages. The distribution of employment and wages among the other size classes varies from region to region.

Growth in North Idaho rebounded in 2003 as indicated by the addition of 257 new establishments compared to only 33 new establishments in 2002, bringing the 2003 total number to 5,866. Size classes **100 to 249** and **500 or more** lost establishments in 2003. The largest growth was in size class **1 to 4** with the addition of 133 establishments. The average covered wage increased 3.5 percent, or \$541. North Idaho had 82 establishments in 2003 with **100 or more** employees, down 2 from 2002. However, in 2003 seven of these establishments employed **500 or more** workers, down three from 2002.

North Central Idaho, the region with the fewest establishments and smallest employment, added 23 establishments bringing the 2003 total to 2,927. This addition resulted in a gain of 209 jobs and an increase in the annual average wage of 1.3 percent, or \$343. However, 3 of the 8 size classes did experience a decrease: **1 to 4**, **100 to 249**, and **500 or more**. North Central Idaho had 53 establishments with **100 or more** employees, down 1 from 2002. Seven of these establishments employed **500 or more**, down 1 from 2002.

Southwest Idaho, the region with the largest number of establishments and workers, added 490 establishments in 2003. The 16,723 establishments employed 254,342 workers, up only 131 from 2002. Six of the 9 size classes reported an increase. Two size classes, **100 to 249** and **500 to 999**, experienced decreases from 2002 with 6 and 5 establishments, respectively. The size class of **1,000 or more** remained unchanged with 10 employers in 2003. The annual average wage increased 1.8 percent to \$31,454, up \$552. Southwest Idaho had 31 establishments with **500 or more** employees, down from 36 in 2002. The area has the largest number of employers with **1,000 or more** workers, totaling 10. Significant increases in the number of employers between 2001 and 2003 occurred in two size classes: **1 to 4** added 546 establishments and **5 to 9** added 242 establishments. Although these two size classes added 2,312 workers, the growth could not offset the loss of 3,137 workers in size class **500 to 1,000**. Most of the worker loss in size class **500 to 1,000** occurred between 2002 and 2003 with the loss of 2,522 workers.

South Central Idaho's 5,972 establishments was an increase of 73 from 2002. Six of the 8 size classes reported an increase in the number of establishments. Two size classes lost establishments: *50 to 99*, down 10 establishments, and *500 or more*, down 3 establishments. The number of workers between 2002 and 2003 was virtually unchanged. However, 1,609 workers have been added since 2001, an increase of 2.2 percent. The annual average wage increased \$215 to \$24,568, the lowest regional average in the state. South Central Idaho has 84 establishments with *100 or more* workers, an increase of 4 from 2002.

Southeast Idaho, the region with the second fewest establishments and employment, had 3,696 establishments in 2003, up 67 from 2002. The growth in the number of establishments brought the average covered employment to 56,613, up 2.0 percent. This region experienced growth in 5 of the 8 size classes with the *20 to 49* size class losing 3 establishments and the *100 to 249* size class also losing 3 establishments. The annual average wage at \$25,359, was up 1.3 percent, or \$327, from 2002.

Southeast Idaho had 72 establishments with *100 or more* employees. Seven of these establishments employ *500 or more* workers, unchanged from 2002.

Northeast Idaho has the largest percent of workers in the *1,000 or more* size class. The 4,987 establishments employed an average of 72,501 workers in 2003. The six establishments in size class *1,000 or more* employed 13.5 percent of the workers and paid 23.0 percent of the total wages. Although the number of establishments in this size class was unchanged, the average annual employment increased 3.1 percent. The *500 to 999* size class was the only class to show a decrease in establishments, down 1 from 2002. The annual average wage at \$28,525, was up \$625 from 2002 or 2.2 percent. Northeast Idaho had 89 establishments with *100 or more* employees, up from 87 in 2002.

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FYI Table 1: Annual Size of Firm Data—STATE OF IDAHO

YEAR	Size of Firm	# of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Total Annual Wage	Average Annual Wage	% of Employment	% of Wages
2003	1 - 4	21,018	43,912	1,200,767,220	27,345	7.7	7.3
	5 - 9	8,803	57,822	1,407,440,931	24,341	10.1	8.5
	10 - 19	5,700	75,448	1,921,077,189	25,462	13.1	11.7
	20 - 49	3,732	110,722	2,923,389,449	26,403	19.3	17.8
	50 - 99	1,218	82,190	2,192,673,799	26,678	14.3	13.3
	100 - 249	529	76,517	2,108,932,722	27,562	13.3	12.8
	250 - 499	133	45,868	1,343,585,202	29,293	8.0	8.2
	500 - 1,000	47	31,166	1,094,164,511	35,107	5.4	6.6
	1,000 +	23	50,320	2,270,400,428	45,119	8.8	13.8
Total		41,202	573,964	16,462,431,451	28,682	100.0	100.0
2002	1 - 4	20,266	43,014	1,161,141,706	26,995	7.5	7.2
	5 - 9	8,454	55,734	1,322,321,093	23,725	9.8	8.2
	10 - 19	5,553	73,939	1,848,739,727	25,003	13.0	11.5
	20 - 49	3,659	109,075	2,794,415,807	25,619	19.1	17.4
	50 - 99	1,201	81,702	2,142,205,348	26,220	14.3	13.3
	100 - 249	534	77,561	2,116,644,809	27,290	13.6	13.2
	250 - 499	119	40,370	1,170,376,934	28,991	7.1	7.3
	500 - 1,000	57	37,664	1,284,455,545	34,103	6.6	8.0
	1,000 +	23	51,082	2,212,782,096	43,318	9.0	13.8
Total		39,865	570,142	16,053,083,065	28,156	100.0	100.0
2001	1 - 4	19,892	42,251	1,114,293,540	26,373	7.4	7.0
	5 - 9	8,440	55,658	1,290,660,041	23,189	9.8	8.2
	10 - 19	5,492	73,003	1,769,492,593	24,239	12.8	11.2
	20 - 49	3,607	107,258	2,705,575,915	25,225	18.8	17.1
	50 - 99	1,232	83,553	2,173,461,569	26,013	14.7	13.7
	100 - 249	536	77,950	2,046,831,108	26,258	13.7	12.9
	250 - 499	125	41,955	1,236,785,323	29,479	7.4	7.8
	500 - 1,000	58	38,340	1,338,206,382	34,904	6.7	8.5
	1,000 +	21	49,968	2,147,952,197	42,987	8.8	13.6
Total		39,402	569,935	15,823,258,668	27,763	100.0	100.0

FYI Table 2: Annual Size of Firm Data—NORTH IDAHO

YEAR	Size of Firm	# of Establish-ments	Average Annual Employment	Total Annual Wage	Average Annual Wage	% of Employment	% of Wages
<b>2003</b>	1 - 4	3,167	6,654	155,438,430	23,360	9.7	8.8
	5 - 9	1,224	7,951	182,639,665	22,970	11.6	10.3
	10 - 19	762	10,109	250,964,281	24,825	14.8	14.1
	20 - 49	493	14,697	398,426,767	27,109	21.4	22.4
	50 - 99	138	9,537	247,025,524	25,903	13.9	13.9
	100 - 249	58	8,378	232,139,416	27,708	12.2	13.1
	250 - 499	17	5,851	171,031,079	29,229	8.5	9.6
	500 +	7	5,359	138,567,866	25,855	7.8	7.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,866</b>	<b>68,538</b>	<b>1,776,233,028</b>	<b>25,916</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2002</b>	1 - 4	3,034	6,441	146,120,354	22,686	9.6	8.7
	5 - 9	1,159	7,558	167,473,417	22,159	11.2	9.9
	10 - 19	727	9,661	235,283,885	24,354	14.3	13.9
	20 - 49	469	13,844	360,719,034	26,055	20.5	21.4
	50 - 99	137	9,465	236,644,815	25,003	14.0	14.0
	100 - 249	60	8,543	236,673,799	27,704	12.7	14.0
	250 - 499	14	4,718	136,471,309	28,925	7.0	8.1
	500 +	10	7,167	168,373,362	23,492	10.6	10.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,609</b>	<b>67,397</b>	<b>1,687,759,975</b>	<b>25,042</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2001</b>	1 - 4	2,996	6,272	140,313,112	22,372	9.4	8.6
	5 - 9	1,178	7,630	169,441,268	22,209	11.4	10.3
	10 - 19	714	9,494	218,598,581	23,026	14.2	13.3
	20 - 49	460	13,615	337,739,845	24,806	20.4	20.6
	50 - 99	142	9,629	246,194,665	25,568	14.4	15.0
	100 - 249	65	9,398	249,806,740	26,582	14.1	15.2
	250 - 499	14	4,341	128,843,402	29,679	6.5	7.9
	500 +	9	6,456	149,762,458	23,196	9.7	9.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,576</b>	<b>66,834</b>	<b>1,640,700,071</b>	<b>24,549</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

FYI Table 3: Annual Size of Firm Data—NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

YEAR	Size of Firm	# of Establish-ments	Average Annual Employment	Total Annual Wage	Average Annual Wage	% of Employment	% of Wages
<b>2003</b>	1 - 4	1,435	3,212	69,115,389	21,516	7.5	6.1
	5 - 9	664	4,335	94,618,198	21,826	10.2	8.3
	10 - 19	434	5,661	132,158,625	23,345	13.3	11.6
	20 - 49	258	7,710	182,507,379	23,671	18.1	16.0
	50 - 99	83	5,602	146,855,102	26,215	13.2	12.9
	100 - 249	37	5,409	130,927,900	24,205	12.7	11.5
	250 - 499	9	3,232	107,531,803	33,268	7.6	9.4
	500 +	7	7,413	274,871,119	37,077	17.4	24.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,927</b>	<b>42,575</b>	<b>1,138,585,515</b>	<b>26,743</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2002</b>	1 - 4	1,441	3,241	69,943,300	21,582	7.6	6.3
	5 - 9	652	4,211	87,832,145	20,860	9.9	7.9
	10 - 19	420	5,477	126,478,688	23,095	12.9	11.3
	20 - 49	258	7,678	182,881,671	23,819	18.1	16.4
	50 - 99	80	5,294	134,325,983	25,373	12.5	12.0
	100 - 249	40	5,990	136,556,087	22,798	14.1	12.2
	250 - 499	6	2,236	87,698,603	39,226	5.3	7.8
	500 +	8	8,241	292,728,419	35,523	19.5	26.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,904</b>	<b>42,366</b>	<b>1,118,444,896</b>	<b>26,400</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2001</b>	1 - 4	1,460	3,278	68,248,968	20,823	7.8	6.3
	5 - 9	646	4,228	85,801,293	20,296	10.1	7.9
	10 - 19	422	5,521	120,485,993	21,822	13.2	11.1
	20 - 49	255	7,596	181,851,092	23,939	18.1	16.7
	50 - 99	83	5,431	131,107,396	24,141	13.0	12.0
	100 - 249	39	5,692	136,711,392	24,017	13.6	12.6
	250 - 499	7	2,688	103,810,761	38,621	6.4	9.5
	500 +	7	7,442	260,378,533	34,989	17.8	23.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,918</b>	<b>41,876</b>	<b>1,088,395,428</b>	<b>25,991</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

FYI Table 4: Annual Size of Firm Data—SOUTHWEST IDAHO

YEAR	Size of Firm	# of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Total Annual Wage	Average Annual Wage	% of Employment	% of Wages
2003	1 - 4	8,549	17,520	513,997,176	29,338	6.9	6.4
	5 - 9	3,467	22,722	597,591,890	26,300	8.9	7.5
	10 - 19	2,297	30,473	830,282,001	27,247	12.0	10.4
	20 - 49	1,514	45,088	1,292,707,731	28,671	17.7	16.2
	50 - 99	549	37,138	1,076,665,727	28,991	14.6	13.5
	100 - 249	255	37,624	1,083,377,549	28,795	14.8	13.5
	250 - 499	62	21,326	637,045,017	29,872	8.4	8.0
	500 - 1,000	21	14,269	583,240,608	40,874	5.6	7.3
	1,000 +	10	28,181	1,385,119,378	49,151	11.1	17.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,723</b>	<b>254,342</b>	<b>8,000,027,077</b>	<b>31,454</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2002	1 - 4	8,297	17,253	500,649,733	29,019	6.8	6.4
	5 - 9	3,297	21,678	556,875,997	25,689	8.5	7.1
	10 - 19	2,252	30,152	805,065,479	26,700	11.9	10.2
	20 - 49	1,496	44,747	1,232,535,123	27,545	17.6	15.7
	50 - 99	538	36,881	1,072,056,053	29,068	14.5	13.6
	100 - 249	261	38,505	1,094,312,975	28,420	15.1	13.9
	250 - 499	56	18,966	555,172,951	29,271	7.5	7.1
	500 - 1,000	26	16,791	654,120,030	38,956	6.6	8.3
	1,000 +	10	29,237	1,384,893,498	47,367	11.5	17.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,233</b>	<b>254,210</b>	<b>7,855,681,839</b>	<b>30,902</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2001	1 - 4	8,003	16,682	469,339,299	28,134	6.5	6.0
	5 - 9	3,225	21,248	535,467,859	25,201	8.3	6.9
	10 - 19	2,231	29,803	772,056,922	25,905	11.7	9.9
	20 - 49	1,487	44,623	1,229,596,917	27,555	17.5	15.8
	50 - 99	547	37,353	1,073,241,109	28,733	14.6	13.8
	100 - 249	262	38,771	1,064,510,087	27,456	15.2	13.7
	250 - 499	60	20,151	567,617,189	28,168	7.9	7.3
	500 - 1,000	27	17,406	727,984,774	41,823	6.8	9.3
	1,000 +	10	29,191	1,357,196,432	46,494	11.4	17.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,851</b>	<b>255,228</b>	<b>7,797,010,588</b>	<b>30,549</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

FYI Table 5: Annual Size of Firm Data—SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

YEAR	Size of Firm	# of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Total Annual Wage	Average Annual Wage	% of Employment	% of Wages
2003	1 - 4	2,915	6,214	173,175,491	27,870	8.4	9.6
	5 - 9	1,367	9,071	212,219,197	23,395	12.3	11.7
	10 - 19	875	11,546	285,168,308	24,698	15.7	15.8
	20 - 49	568	16,678	395,023,342	23,685	22.6	21.8
	50 - 99	163	11,165	269,442,169	24,133	15.2	14.9
	100 - 249	65	8,966	237,548,927	26,494	12.2	13.1
	250 - 499	13	4,131	105,239,050	25,475	5.6	5.8
	500 +	6	5,867	131,289,100	23,808	8.0	7.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,972</b>	<b>73,637</b>	<b>1,809,105,584</b>	<b>24,568</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2002	1 - 4	2,863	6,174	187,624,209	30,388	8.4	10.5
	5 - 9	1,340	8,953	210,413,852	23,503	12.2	11.7
	10 - 19	873	11,632	278,871,855	23,976	15.8	15.6
	20 - 49	536	15,869	371,151,381	23,388	21.6	20.7
	50 - 99	174	11,810	270,490,119	22,903	16.0	15.1
	100 - 249	58	8,086	218,074,819	26,968	11.0	12.2
	250 - 499	13	3,912	97,969,468	25,041	5.3	5.5
	500 +	9	7,194	158,524,613	24,283	9.8	8.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,865</b>	<b>73,630</b>	<b>1,793,120,316</b>	<b>24,353</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2001	1 - 4	2,791	6,116	187,282,614	30,624	8.5	10.9
	5 - 9	1,331	8,869	198,741,973	22,408	12.3	11.5
	10 - 19	868	11,504	268,751,863	23,362	16.0	15.6
	20 - 49	529	15,482	348,811,399	22,530	21.5	20.3
	50 - 99	171	11,631	265,725,697	22,847	16.1	15.4
	100 - 249	56	7,980	206,394,381	25,864	11.1	12.0
	250 - 499	11	3,436	92,422,014	26,901	4.8	5.4
	500 +	9	7,017	154,390,875	22,004	9.7	9.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,765</b>	<b>72,033</b>	<b>1,722,520,816</b>	<b>23,913</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

FYI Table 6: Annual Size of Firm Data—SOUTHEAST IDAHO

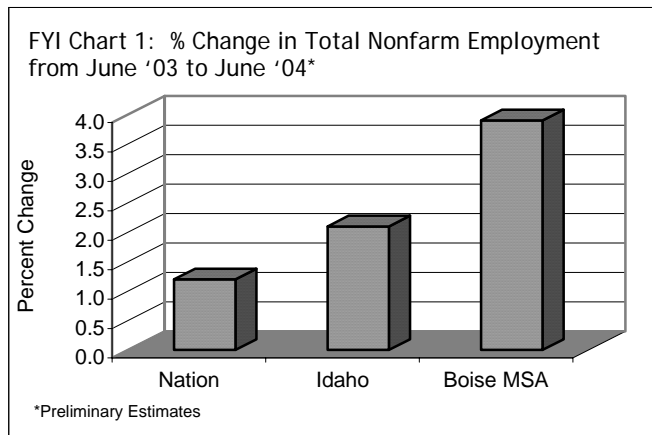
YEAR	Size of Firm	# of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Total Annual Wage	Average Annual Wage	% of Employment	% of Wages
<b>2003</b>	1 - 4	1,710	3,756	83,806,833	22,315	6.6	5.8
	5 - 9	862	5,697	122,809,426	21,556	10.1	8.6
	10 - 19	564	7,443	167,885,278	22,556	13.1	11.7
	20 - 49	368	11,002	265,652,269	24,146	19.4	18.5
	50 - 99	123	8,103	200,568,922	24,753	14.3	14.0
	100 - 249	44	6,236	155,520,831	24,939	11.0	10.8
	250 - 499	21	7,252	203,770,338	28,100	12.8	14.2
	500 +	7	7,125	235,641,632	33,074	12.6	16.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,696</b>	<b>56,613</b>	<b>1,435,655,529</b>	<b>25,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2002</b>	1 - 4	1,681	3,741	80,012,054	21,385	6.7	5.8
	5 - 9	850	5,662	117,708,801	20,788	10.2	8.5
	10 - 19	542	7,167	160,951,434	22,459	12.9	11.6
	20 - 49	371	11,243	266,088,200	23,666	20.3	19.2
	50 - 99	113	7,550	181,846,526	24,086	13.6	13.1
	100 - 249	47	6,576	167,512,238	25,473	11.9	12.1
	250 - 499	20	6,863	194,130,846	28,287	12.4	14.0
	500 +	7	6,686	220,759,024	33,017	12.0	15.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,629</b>	<b>55,489</b>	<b>1,389,009,123</b>	<b>25,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2001</b>	1 - 4	1,661	3,757	76,235,968	20,291	6.7	5.5
	5 - 9	875	5,826	120,481,179	20,682	10.3	8.6
	10 - 19	542	7,180	159,061,705	22,153	12.7	11.4
	20 - 49	357	10,702	245,400,735	22,930	19.0	17.6
	50 - 99	120	8,080	187,854,428	23,251	14.3	13.5
	100 - 249	47	6,451	161,678,012	25,062	11.5	11.6
	250 - 499	21	7,282	216,016,086	29,663	12.9	15.5
	500 +	8	7,051	227,973,935	32,334	12.5	16.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,630</b>	<b>56,328</b>	<b>1,394,702,048</b>	<b>24,760</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

FYI Table 7: Annual Size of Firm Data—NORTHEAST IDAHO

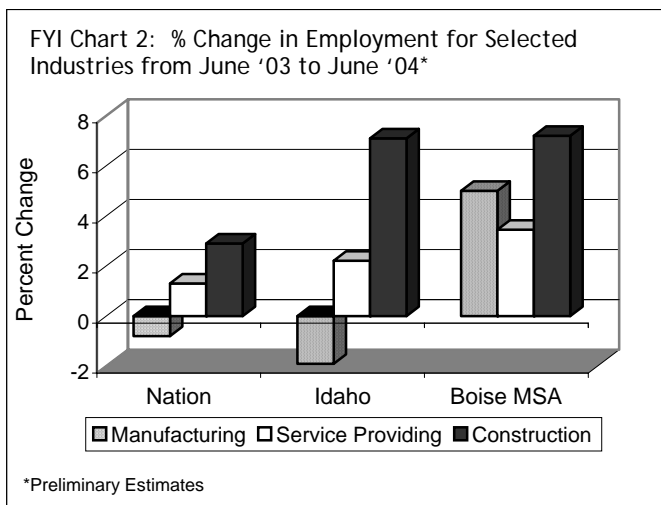
YEAR	Size of Firm	# of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Total Annual Wage	Average Annual Wage	% of Employment	% of Wages
<b>2003</b>	1 - 4	2,437	5,333	129,691,149	24,319	7.4	6.3
	5 - 9	1,115	7,342	169,383,429	23,069	10.1	8.2
	10 - 19	707	9,400	227,146,979	24,164	13.0	11.0
	20 - 49	486	14,238	342,137,467	24,030	19.6	16.5
	50 - 99	153	10,011	229,912,439	22,966	13.8	11.1
	100 - 249	67	9,295	243,116,992	26,157	12.8	11.8
	250 - 499	11	3,731	112,708,977	30,209	5.1	5.4
	500 - 1,000	5	3,384	139,192,272	41,136	4.7	6.7
	1,000 +	6	9,767	474,787,304	48,612	13.5	23.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,987</b>	<b>72,501</b>	<b>2,068,077,008</b>	<b>28,525</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>2002</b>	1 - 4	2,293	5,116	120,429,587	23,541	7.6	7.1
	5 - 9	1,062	7,056	157,316,842	22,295	10.5	9.3
	10 - 19	678	9,034	214,175,368	23,707	13.4	12.7
	20 - 49	486	14,434	335,578,389	23,248	21.4	19.9
	50 - 99	146	9,748	221,807,974	22,755	14.5	13.1
	100 - 249	65	9,013	222,923,213	24,734	13.4	13.2
	250 - 499	10	3,113	89,207,793	28,655	4.6	5.3
	500 - 1,000	6	3,964	170,943,900	43,123	5.9	10.1
	1,000 +	6	9,465	446,894,795	47,215	14.0	26.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,751</b>	<b>70,944</b>	<b>1,979,277,861</b>	<b>27,899</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>117.3</b>
<b>2001</b>	1 - 4	1,661	3,757	76,235,968	20,291	6.7	5.5
	5 - 9	875	5,826	120,481,179	20,682	10.3	8.6
	10 - 19	542	7,180	159,061,705	22,153	12.7	11.4
	20 - 49	357	10,702	245,400,735	22,930	19.0	17.6
	50 - 99	120	8,080	187,854,428	23,251	14.3	13.5
	100 - 249	47	6,451	161,678,012	25,062	11.5	11.6
	250 - 499	21	7,282	216,016,086	29,663	12.9	15.5
	500 +	8	7,051	227,973,935	32,334	12.5	16.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,630</b>	<b>56,328</b>	<b>1,394,702,048</b>	<b>24,760</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## IDAHO OUTPACES NATION IN JOB GROWTH, LAGS IN AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE GROWTH

Idaho's *Nonfarm Employment* grew 2.1 percent between June 2003 and June 2004 while the Boise MSA grew 3.9 percent, ahead of the national rate of 1.2 percent, as shown in FYI Chart 1.



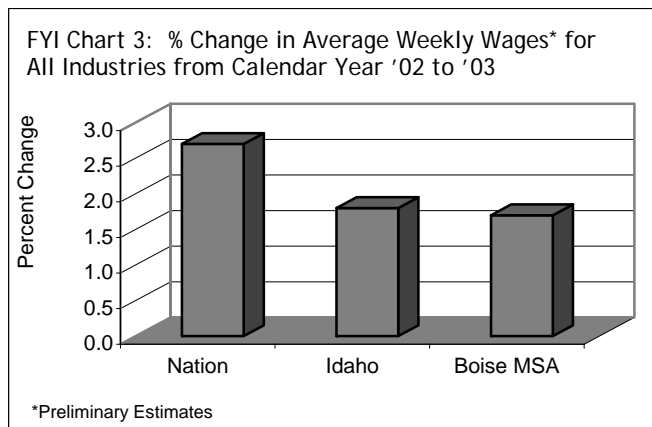
*Manufacturing* for the nation was down 0.8 percent during that same time period while Idaho was down 1.9 percent, as shown in FYI Chart 2. However, *Construction* in the Boise MSA grew 5.0 percent over the year. The reason for the statewide reduction in *Manufacturing* jobs is largely due to the downturn in the forest products and the food processing industries in Idaho, which are mostly located outside of the Boise MSA.



Idaho's *Service-Providing Industries* and *Construction* industry outpaced the nation in job growth, as Chart 2 also shows. Idaho's *Service-Providing Industries* grew 2.2

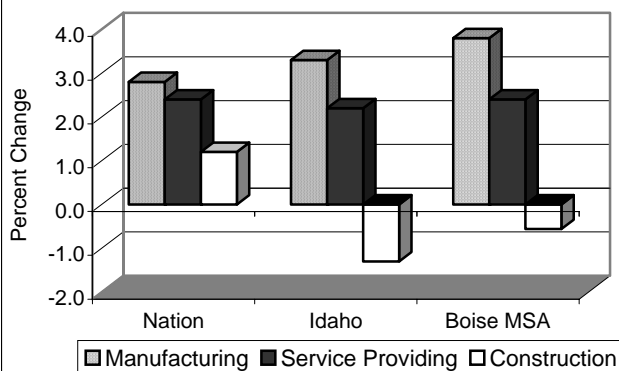
percent over the year and the Boise MSA grew 3.5 percent, while the nation only grew 1.3 percent. Within the *Service-Providing Industries, Education & Health Services*, along with *Professional & Business Services* were the driving forces for Idaho and the Boise MSA. In *Construction*, Idaho grew 7.1 percent over the year and the Boise MSA grew 7.2 percent, while the nation only grew 2.9 percent.

Although Idaho outpaced the nation in job growth, both statewide and in the Boise MSA, it lagged in average wage increases for all industries for calendar year 2003, as FYI Chart 3 shows. Idaho's average weekly wages increased 1.8 percent and the Boise MSA increased 1.7 percent, while the nation increased 2.7 percent.



Wage increases the state and the MSA experienced from calendar year 2002 to 2003 were driven by *Manufacturing*, as FYI Chart 4 shows (see page 27). The average weekly wages for *Manufacturing* in Idaho rose 3.3 percent; *Manufacturing* wages in the Boise MSA rose 3.8 percent, above the national average of 2.8 percent. Idaho outpaced the nation in wage growth for *Manufacturing*, which is largely attributed to the high tech computer industries and the majority of those jobs are in the Boise MSA. FYI Chart 4 also shows that average weekly wages in the *Service-Providing Industries* in Idaho and the Boise MSA rose 2.2 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively, keeping pace with the national average wage growth of 2.4 percent. However, FYI Chart 4 also shows that *Construction* workers in Idaho and the Boise MSA did not realize wage increases in 2003, as did their counterparts throughout the nation. The average weekly wages for *Construction* workers in Idaho and the Boise MSA de-

FYI Chart 4: % Change in Average Weekly Wages\* for Selected Industries from Calendar Year '02 to '03



\*Preliminary Estimates

creased 1.3 percent and 0.6 percent respectively, while the average weekly wages for the nation increased 1.2 percent.

Idaho's statewide job growth in the *Service-Providing Industries* and *Construction*, coupled with the strong growth in *Manufacturing* in the Boise MSA, have helped Idaho slightly outpace the nation in job growth. However, Idaho's average weekly wage increase from 2002 to 2003 have lagged behind the nation due to minimal average weekly wage increases in the *Service-Providing Industries* and average weekly wage decreases in *Construction*.

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## PANHANDLE NEWS — (continued from page 4)

trails, chairlift rides, and mountaintop concerts. Silver Velocity Paintball, which opened in June, is a short walk above the gondola's top. The paintball area's 19 inflatable air bunkers are easy to move, so the course can be changed often. The course also features two sandbag bunkers and multiple trees.

- This summer, Silver Mountain is open Wednesdays through Sundays, instead of Thursdays through Sundays as in past summers. Local store and restaurant owners say they are thrilled with the extra day of gondola operation because it is keeping more tourists in the Silver Valley.
- Avery, a village with 50 year-round residents, lies along the St. Joe River, which flows from the Bitterroot Mountains on the Montana border west toward St. Maries. Mountains cut Avery off from the Silver Valley of Shoshone County most of the year, so Avery looks to St. Maries, 37 miles away, for most of its goods and services.

While the Avery district makes up three-fifths of the acreage in Shoshone County, fewer than 500 people live there, while 12,500 people live in the northern part of Shoshone County. The other villages in the district are Calder, halfway between Avery and St. Maries, and Clarkia near Shoshone County's southwest corner.

The Avery School District 394 runs two elementary-middle schools in Calder and Avery. When children graduate from eighth grade, they attend high school in St. Maries. The Avery School District is Idaho's smallest with an enrollment of 29 students recorded in fall 2003.

Avery once was an important rail center. Since the Milwaukee Railroad abandoned the rail line in the early 1980s, its economy exclusively revolves around its forests. The U.S. Forest Service is the largest employer, while logging companies are the next largest source of jobs. Stores serve residents and the many people who come to enjoy the district's bounty of hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, kayaking, and snowmobiling opportunities. Altogether, there are 75 year-round jobs in the Avery district with a summer peak of 145 jobs.

Avery is drawing more visitors than ever because of its proximity to an entry point to the highly popular Route of the Hiawatha, the rails-to-trails project that opened in 1999 and extends along the old Milwaukee rail line northward to Lookout Pass on the Montana border, where it hooks up to Montana trails.

Avery's rail heritage pays off in other ways. During the last few years, the Avery Citizens Committee renovated the old Milwaukee Railroad depot. The depot, built in 1909, needed a new foundation, fresh siding, paint, floors, and a heating system. The depot serves as the community center, post office, museum, library, and meeting hall. The committee now is trying to renovate a 1948 Milwaukee Railroad car.

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